



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/049,162
Applicant : HIRASHIMA et al.
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Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window
Randolph Building
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Alexandria, VA 22314

March 29, 2006

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith, and in response to the Office Action of November 29, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.